

STATINTL

MIAMI NEWS

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THE MIAMI NEWS

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LETTERS

We Should Learn

From The Past

To The Editor:

I take issue with your view of this week's NBC White Paper, Cuba: Bay of Pigs, for three reasons. Firstly, the program was not a vigorous denunciation of the CIA as you report it to have been. In April, 1961, the public was told that President Kennedy lifted air support from the invasion plans because of an intelligence establishment report that the Cuban people would rise up against Fidel Castro at the first sign of troops on the beach. The program reported that no one in Washington ever expected such a popular revolt and

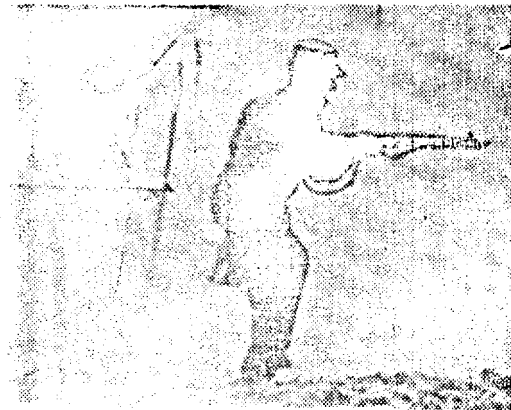
that these hopes did not enter into any plans for support of an exile invasion.

Secondly, the program described not so much the failure of the CIA as it did the failure of President Kennedy's judgment in withdrawing air support. It is inconceivable that a military man would have advised him to enter into an amphibious invasion without air power.

Thirdly, there can be nothing wrong in soul-searching though our errors. Santavana says that unless we learn from history we are doomed to repeat it. Our generation seems to have a penchant for forgetting the unforgettable, for forgiving the unforgivable, and for ignoring the beast in our massive system that makes such disasters as the Bay of Pigs hideous probabilities in this our precarious present.

The brilliantly done, hour-long "rehash" may have been just old hat to some of us, but to others it was a well-placed kick in the reminder button that if we do in fact hold the last best hope for mankind, it is only by a tenuous and sometimes slipping grasp.

DANIEL S. DEARING, Miami



EMPTED CUBAN INVASION